Claims:

1.   A method for identifying participants of a collaborative network from all members of a computing network, the method comprising the steps of:

a)   determining a unique session identifier for the participants of the collaborative network;

b)   transmitting, by an inquiring participant, a message having the session identifier to all members of the computing network;

c)   responding by participants having the session identifier to the transmitted message sent by the inquiring participant; and

d)   establishing communication between the participants that responded to the message and the inquiring participant such that the collaborative network is formed including the inquiring participant.

2.   The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of creating a participant list with the inquiring participant.

3.   The method of Claim 2 wherein the participant list includes all of the participants of the collaborative network with the same session identifier.

4.   The method of Claim 1 wherein the participants are computing devices.

5.   The method of Claim 4 wherein the computing devices are selected from the group consisting of PDA's, computers, and wireless devices.

6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the collaborative network is capable of transmitting and receiving messages to and from computing devices.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the collaborative network is a wired or wireless network.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein step (b) comprises transmitting a UDP datagram containing the session identifier to all members of the network.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the datagram is a broadcast or multicast datagram.

10. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

e) transmitting by each participant of the collaborative network a stay alive message; and

f) removing a participant if the stay alive message is not received for a prescribed period of time.

11. A method of identifying participants of a collaborative session communicating with an electronic network, the method comprising the steps of:

a) establishing a session identifier for the collaborative session;

b) transmitting the session identifier to all members of the electronic network; and

c)   finding participants of the electronic network having the same session identifier in order to identify members of the collaborative network.

12.   A system for identifying members of a collaborative network, the system comprising:

at least two computing devices in electronic communication with one another;

a unique session identifier for distinguishing members of the collaborative network; and

an identification message having the unique session identifier that is sent between the two computing devices such that if the session identifier is the same between the two devices then the devices are members of the collaborative network.

13.   The system of Claim 12 wherein the electronic devices are in a wireless or wired network.

14.   The system of Claim 12 further comprising a participant list created on the computing devices in order to store members of the collaborative network.

15.   The system of Claim 12 wherein the computing devices are selected from the group consisting of PDA's, computers, and wireless devices.

16. The system of Claim 12 wherein the at least two computing devices comprises a plurality of computing devices configured in an electronic network.

17. The system of Claim 1 wherein the identification message is a UDP datagram.

18. The system of Claim 17 wherein the UDP datagram is a broadcast or multicast message.

19. The system of Claim 1 further comprising a stay alive message transmitted between the electronic devices and operative to inform if a device has left the collaborative network.